

## I.V. Firefighters to the Rescue

### Monday, April 7

\*3:21 p.m. Medical assist:  
500 block Schumaker Avenue.  
\*3:28 p.m. Medical assist:  
100 block N. Redwood Hwy.

### Tuesday, April 8

\*9:09 a.m. Medical assist:  
24000 block Redwood Hwy.  
\*6:03 p.m. Medical assist:  
24000 block Redwood Hwy.  
\*11:10 p.m. Structure fire:  
700 block Hummingbird Lane.

### Wednesday, April 9

\*8:20 a.m. Medical assist:  
4500 block Deer Creek Road.  
\*1:41 p.m. Medical assist:  
5300 block Holland Loop.

### Thursday, April 10

\*9:26 a.m. Medical assist:  
17000 block Redwood Hwy.  
\*11:02 a.m. Motor vehicle accident:  
100 block Deer Creek Road.

\*1:54 p.m. Open burn:  
30000 block Redwood Hwy.  
\*2:36 p.m. Motor vehicle accident:  
200 block N. Redwood Hwy.

\*3:56 p.m. Vehicle fire:  
Finch Road / Westside Road.

### Friday, April 11

\*5:55 p.m. Vehicle fire:  
MP 16 Redwood Hwy.

### Saturday, April 12

\*12:36 p.m. Medical assist:  
900 block Caves Hwy.  
\*1:50 p.m. Medical assist:  
400 block Glendon Road.  
\*7:03 p.m. Medical assist:  
28000 block Redwood Hwy.

### Sunday, April 13

\*11:22 a.m. Medical assist:  
400 block S. Junction Avenue.  
\*6:02 p.m. Medical assist:  
8600 block Takilma Road.  
\*8:05 p.m. Medical assist:  
500 block Schumacher Avenue.



**WESTSIDE CAR FIRE** - Firefighters from Illinois Valley Fire District responded to a car fully involved in flames on Friday, April 11 at approximately 4 p.m. The vehicle was in a wooded area at milepost 5 of Westside Road. Indications are that the car, a Mazda without license plates or vehicle identification number, might have been stolen. The fire apparently began in the passenger seat, said Maintenance Division Chief Joe Feldhaus. Several fish skeletons littered the ground near the car, leading to speculation that squatters might have been involved.

## West Nile Virus toll-free health line open

With West Nile Virus expected in Oregon within months, public health officials at the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) have launched a toll-free telephone information line, (866) 703-4636 or (866) 703-INFO.

DHS established the statewide telephone line as one way to provide access to information about the virus to the public and physicians. Recorded topics include disease facts, symptoms, how to reduce the risk of infection and, for physicians, clinical information for diagnosing, treating and reporting a West Nile case.

The messages are recorded in English and Spanish.

Health officials expect that West Nile Virus, already

in 46 states, will be detected in Oregon this year.

Emilio DeBess, DHS public health veterinarian, advises that the most important prevention step people can take is to look around their homes and eliminate sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, such as clogged gutters, birdbaths and old tires.

"Just getting rid of standing water will decrease by 70 percent the possibility of getting infected with West Nile Virus," he said.

"The infection can cause flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, weakness, swollen glands and rash. Many people who are exposed never become sick. In rare cases, however, the virus can cause inflammation of the

brain and result in serious illness or even death," he added.

West Nile Virus is an infection that lives in birds and is spread to humans by mosquitoes that have fed on an infected bird. It first appeared in New York in 1999. Since then, it has spread steadily westward. Only four states -- Oregon, Nevada, Utah and Arizona -- have not yet detected the virus. To date, 4,071 cases and 274 deaths have been reported.

Besides the toll-free line, DHS provides information about West Nile Virus on the Web at <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/acd/wnil/index.cfm>.

In Josephine County, health officials are working on a plan in case of an outbreak.

## Garden fair planned for weekend

Oregon State University Master Gardener's Spring Garden Fair inside the Josephine County Fairgrounds will be held Friday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's event, free to the public, is offering a master gardener's plant sale, educational displays, gardening re-

lated vendors, as well as offering activities for children.

A master gardener will be on hand to answer garden-related questions, as well as providing hands-on activities.

Garden tools, garden art, baskets and planters, stepping stones and garden statues, as well as a wide variety of plants will be offered for sale.

## Car rolls in creek; 2 drown

Two Josephine County residents died after their vehicle went off a bridge, overturned and became submerged in Wolf Creek, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

The victims from the Sunday, April 13 accident were identified as Craig Dow, 48, of Grants Pass; and his passenger, Margaret May, 46, of Wolf Creek.

JCSO said that a call for help was received at approximately 12:44 a.m., and that emergency personnel re-

sponded to 2121 Coyote Creek Road.

Deputies found that a car was lying on its passenger side, and that it was submerged in fast-moving water.

Deputies were aided by Wolf Creek Rural Fire Dept., Rural/Metro Fire Dept., and American Medical Response. Dow was extricated, but May was not able to be removed from the vehicle until it was pulled from the water.

Both persons were dead, said the sheriff's office, apparently from drowning.

## Where in the world is LBMS geographer Austin Hocker?

Eighth-grader only I.V. student to compete in state bee

By BRITT FAIRCHILD  
Staff Writer

Want to know what country has the tallest mountain? How about the longest river?

Ask eighth-grader Austin Hocker, Lorna Byrne Middle School's (LBMS) 2002 geography bee champion.

His Earth smarts earned him a finalist spot in this year's state-level National Geographic Bee at Western Oregon University in Monmouth on April 4.

Hocker, 13, is the son of Dave Hocker, and the late Cathy Hocker.

Some 100 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders throughout the state participated in the event -- though only one could proceed to the national finals in Washington, D.C. in May.

While Hocker won't be representing Oregon in the nationals, he said he is pleased with how he did at the state competition.

"I (came in) 12th or 13th," he said, explaining that participants were separated into five groups of 20 each.

Each student, he said, was asked eight questions about world geography, politics, cultures and religions and current events. He answered four correctly.

"There were some kids there that were really smart," Hocker said.

While most of the questions are now a blur, Hocker remembered one (not one of his): A treaty was signed recently in what African country

ending four years of war? Congo is the answer.

Hocker said that he prepared for the competition by reviewing questions from the previous couple of years.



AUSTIN HOCKER

To compete in the state finals, students who win their school geography contests take a test. The 100 top scorers go on.

Hocker's world quest class (an elective at LBMS) is taught by Cate Bendock, who accompanied Hocker to the competition.

It's she, Hocker said, who taught him much of what he needed to know for the event. He said that he's picked up other related tidbits from watching TV news.

Why did he want to participate in the competition? "I like geography. I'm just good at it," he said.

Eighth-graders Tobias Graves, of North Middle School; and John Pascale, of Lincoln Savage Middle School in Grants Pass also competed in the event.

## Golf News

Results from Illinois Valley Golf Course and Club Tournament on Saturday, March 29, 2003:

1st Gross, Mike Inge-77.  
2nd Gross, Jack Silva-81. 3rd Gross, Ed Weitzel-84.

1st Net, Joe Crutchfield-66. 2nd net, Terry Taylor-70, 3rd Net, Marv Ahlers-71.

K.P. #4/13, Marv Ahlers. K.P. #8/17, Bob Hurt, Long Drive #6, Mike Inge.

## Knapweed

(Continued from page 1)

The hope is that weed crew will be allowed to hand-pull the weeds.

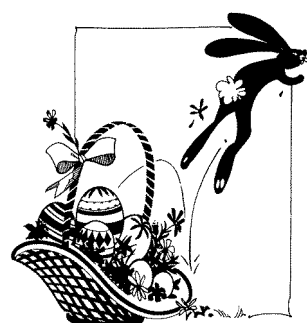
"We would like to get our hands on it for a year and see where we get," Chapp said. "We think we're very well qualified. I think in one year we can greatly reduce it (the spotted knapweed populations)."

Even if having weed-pullers do the work costs a little more, former weed-puller Ken Herrick of Selma, who was at the meeting, said he would "rather see local people employed."

He also complimented the forest service for taking such concern over the situation.

"I was pleased to hear Pam Bode say she was going to make it her number-one priority," Herrick said. "I think there's a better solution (than using an herbicide)."

I.V. Ranger District is planning another meeting on the knapweed project status and a field trip to the site. The meeting is tentatively set for May 20, and the field trip tentatively set for May 21.



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## County matters on video tape available free

Various videos formatted for Internet viewing are produced by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with Rogue Valley Community Television (RVTV).

Videos formatted for Internet viewing of the commissioners' weekly business sessions, and other programs of interest, are available on the following Web site:

<http://www.co.josephine.or.us>

The commissioners are testing this service through June and are interested in receiving public comments about the addition.

Phone Becky Smith at 474-5221, Ext. 3204; or [besmith@co.josephine.or.us](mailto:besmith@co.josephine.or.us) to offer feedback.

**Harry Potter is Coming!**  
**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** is FINALLY scheduled for release on June 22.  
Why wait in line at Barnes & Noble? Reserve your copy now at **Blue Moon Books & Coffee!**  
For more information, come in or phone 592-2266.



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